

Social Questions Bulletin

Volume 43

DECEMBER, 1953

Number 9

M.F.S.A. Executive Committee Speaks on Current Issues

The Executive Committee of the Methodist Federation for Social Action met on December 10 and 11 in the Central Methodist Church in Detroit, before and following a public and informational meeting, sponsored by the Federation on the evening of December 10. Presiding was M.F.S.A. President, Dr. Loyd F. Worley, who had set the meetings at that time and place for the convenience of members attending the Church and Peace Conference there earlier that week. The Committee members attending the sessions of the Committee, formulated and adopted the following resolutions on current issues.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS

We welcome the spirit of the words spoken by President Eisenhower to the United Nations on December 8th.

We are gratified that he chose the United Nations as the place to advance his proposals for peace.

We note that, as in his speech of April 16, the President has once again set forward the vision of a world in which nature's resources and human skill will be used for the benefit of mankind. Once again he has spelled out the terrible consequences of modern war.

He has reaffirmed the right of peoples to choose their own way of life and reasserted that differences between nations must be settled at the conference table, not the battle-field.

Since April 16, there have been occasions when the words spoken then should have been translated into deeds. Had they been, the new China would now be represented in the United Nations; a "round-table" conference on peace in Korea would now be underway; peaceful alternatives to German rearmament would now be under discussion; international tensions would now be less than they are.

It is our hope that in the coming days these new words of hope and peace of our President will be translated into deeds in those concrete situations which threaten the world with war. The proposal for an international agency for the development of the peaceful use of atomic energy is inspiring and worthy of the support of all persons of good will.

But this proposal can be no substitute for engaging in the difficult but urgent task of settling peacefully the pressing problems between great nations.

We, therefore, recommend to M.F.S.A. members that they individually express their commendation to the President for this speech and urge him to apply the spirit of the speech to the immediate problems facing the nations, such as those indicated above.

FOR AN INCLUSIVE, UNIVERSAL UNITED NATIONS

We wish to call attention to the fact that many nations in the world are not yet members of the United Nations. Several have made application, but have not been admitted.

We believe that if the United Nations is to work for world peace as a really significant and united organization, all nations should be member states.

We, therefore, urge admission into the United Nations of all nations and de facto governments desiring membership.

This resolution does not commit the Executive Committee of the M.F.S.A. to endorsement of some of the governments desir-

The Methodist Federation for Social Action, an unofficial membership organization, seeks to deepen within the Church, the sense of social obligation and opportunity to study, from the Christian point of view, social problems and their solutions and to promote social action in the spirit of Jesus. The Federation stands for the complete abolition of war. The Federation rejects the method of the struggle for profit as the economic base for society and seeks to replace it with social-economic planning to develop a society without class or group discriminations and privileges. In seeking these objectives the Federation does not commit its members to any specific program, but remains an inspirational and educational agency, proposing social changes by democratic decision, not by violence.

ing membership in the United Nations. It simply appears to us to be more realistic to suggest that all governments should be admitted whether our government favors the government in power in a given nation or not.

TOWARDS MORE DEMOCRATIC AND HUMANE IMMIGRATION POLICY

The proposed Omnibus Immigration and Naturalization Bill known as the Lehman-Celler Bill and introduced in the last session of Congress by thirty-two of its members, is a great step in advance over the present Walter McCarran Law, and should be supported vigorously by all who are concerned for the liberties of our nation.

While it is by no means a perfect bill, it goes far toward reestablishing the rights and privileges of our foreign born and toward eliminating the discriminatory provisions of the present law.

In view of the report by Clayton Knowles in the New York Times for September 24, 1953, that a hard and fast understanding exists among Congressmen to rule out any revision whatsoever of the Walter McCarran Law at the next session of Congress, we urge a concerted appeal to the members of Congress for extended public hearings on the proposed Lehman-Celler Bill.

OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY TO THE UNEMPLOYED

All Methodists are enjoined by the Social Creed of our Church to work for the kind of economic order that will protect all personalities from harm, and afford them the maximum health, security, and enrichment of life. We affirm, the Creed says, "that personality possesses the highest value" and that "we test all institutions by their effect upon personality. Since Jesus died for the redemption of human life, we believe we should live to fulfill our obligation to help save man from sin and from every influence which would harm or destroy him."

Should we not, in the light of this clearly expressed faith, look into what is happening to many of our fellow-Americans? It is reported that in Detroit alone, as this M.F.S.A. Executive Committee is meeting, tens of thousands of workers are out of work. Unemployment compensation in Michigan is only \$27.00 a week, with \$2.00 in addition for each dependent child. In other states, as for example, Virginia, unemployment compensation sinks to \$22.00, with no additional amount for dependent children. How can homes, thus affected, endure the severe mental strain and physical deprivation of these conditions?

We, members of the M.F.S.A. Executive Committee, are alarmed at the growing unemployment in the United States, with the destruction of standards of living. We earnestly urge our members to call upon both President Eisenhower and Congressional leaders to support and enact legislation which will:

1. Increase unemployment compensation and extend the duration of such benefits.
2. Increase the minimum wage to \$1.25 per hour.
3. Raise the Social Security retirement payments and expand coverage of Social Security benefits.
4. Enact an equitable tax program based upon the ability to pay. We further support labor in its campaign to secure a guaranteed annual wage for workers, believing that it is the moral obligation of industry and society to thus protect workers

and their families, and insure the consumer power that will keep the economy stable.

SELFISH MEN PLUNDER GOD'S GIFT OF NATURAL WEALTH TO THE PEOPLE

"The earth is the Lord's." The great God-created natural resources on and in the earth, were brought forth for the blessing of all mankind. The vast riches in forests, mines, soil, and river valleys, belong to the people. God did not mean them to be plundered by privileged minorities for their own private gain.

Should not our membership, as well as all Methodists, re-examine the social teachings of our Church and determine whether present developments in our country are a menace to the people?

On November 3, Interior Secretary Douglas McKay, in speaking to a Western Governors' Conference at Albuquerque, N. M., said, "Our basic mission is to dispose of and to integrate the public domain with the private economy. . . . The government's main objective would continue to be the gradual transfer of the public domain to private ownership."

The work of the Rural Electrification Administration is being paralyzed. Even the world-renowned T.V.A., one of the most dramatic examples of social, cultural and economic improvement, is being endangered; for President Eisenhower's chairman of the Inter-Governmental Relations Commission has said, "I think the Tennessee Valley Authority should be sold to private industry. . . . I think the Federal Government should never have developed it in the first place."

Thus, while people are preoccupied with the hysteria over communism, their pockets are being picked by real conspirators against the public interest.

We urge all Christians to investigate for themselves what is going on and reach their own conclusions as to what should be done to protect the public domain. We are at least morally bound to examine the moral and political philosophy of all candidates for Congress in 1954 in an effort to send such representatives to Washington as respect and work for the economic interests of all the people.

THE M.F.S.A. PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Dr. Loyd F. Worley, M.F.S.A. president, made the following statement as part of his address at the public meeting held in Central Methodist Church in Detroit on the evening of December 10, and sponsored by the M.F.S.A. Executive Committee:

Regardless of the judgment of biased critics the M.F.S.A. holds no brief for communism. Those aspects associated with totalitarianism and the police state are equally condemned with similar behavior reported from fascist sources.

It is not out of place to remind the public again that the worst war in all history was brought about by an obscure individual who came to power by preying upon prejudice and fomenting hysterical fears. He exalted nationalism; he favored the regimentation of youth by compulsory military training; he divided his people by accusations against religious leaders and by making unfounded charges of communist infiltration. At the beginning no one took this rabble rouser seriously. But by dividing, he conquered and he consolidated every gain with new and unfounded charges against those who loved freedom and democracy.

His American counterpart is on the loose. He cajoles and threatens until he receives equal privileges of access to the public as those accorded a man who has been elected to the highest office.

A half dozen little satellites imitate his methods until no one who has stood against prejudice, for civil and religious freedom, for rights of minorities, and for peace can feel secure from those who would indulge in character assassination.

There is a remarkable similarity between the methods being used by a senator from Wisconsin and a former paperhanger in Europe.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Neither the headlines about the present attack on freedom of religion, nor the stories behind them, reveal the full extent and significance of that attack. To get its complete meaning, one has to read and analyze the 270 pages of the four reports of the secret hearings of the Un-American Committee on communism and religion, July 7-14. A premature citation from them, as having been ordered printed was introduced into the Oxnam Hearing and part of their testimony was repeated at the McMichael Hearing, but the record was not then available.

The headlines shouted "600 Clergymen Called Members of Communist Plot" and subheads said subverting church for communist purposes but did not get to the full charge. This in the words of Committee Counsel was being engaged in a communist conspiracy "to destroy religion in the United States" by subverting the churches into atheism. The main instrument of this conspiracy was said to be our organization which had extended its pattern and influence into other churches. Some of our leaders were said to have formed a communist cell to control the Federation for this diabolic purpose.

It seems incredible that members of Congress could swallow such fantastic lies without inquiring into their truth until one remembers how the human mind behaved in the Inquisition and the New England witch hunt.

This threatening development is the creation of an alliance of self interests. There are the paid professional informer witnesses. Professor Chafee of Harvard, civil liberties authority, records the historic fact: "The renegade has to make a good story in order to obtain immunity for his own admitted misconduct." Also, as his profession gets crowded, he has to make new stories to maintain the higher standard of living than he previously enjoyed. At the same time politicians and lawyers see publicity and possible advancement in catering to hysterical fear and inciting it into mania. So Matthews started in on religion and Velde with his F.B.I. experience and mentality joined in, persuading Kunzig, a young, ambitious lawyer, to come along. Reactionary religious leaders seized an opportunity to attack that part of religion which they reject. McIntire's American Council of Churches and its lay auxiliary claim credit for getting 200,000 letters to the Committee demanding investigation of communism in the churches. The Circuit Riders are reported to have requested investigation of Ward and McMichael in '52 and again in '53.

This combination of reactionary self interests naturally becomes the instrument of the monopoly section of our economy which now controls the government but not yet the people. The chief obstacle to the extension of its control is the Bill of Rights. So total social reaction unites in the effort to nullify the guarantees of that charter of our freedom. The post-war witch hunt has put a strangling grip on the throat of all the means of communication that influence public opinion except the pulpit, and over that it has exercised some indirect restraints. Now it attempts to put boundaries to the expression of the religious conscience in direct violation of the First Amendment. If it succeeds, the last hindrance to the full development of a police state is removed. If it is defeated in this attack, the other badly wounded freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution can be won back to full vigor. The issue is more than the reputation of individuals, more than the procedures of committees, more than freedom of worship, it is "the free exercise of religion." As one enlightened lady put it, the churches have to make the nation understand that "Congress aint got no right to stick its nose into our religion."

This job now becomes the main responsibility of our organization. The first part of it is to get the church to see that more than our little organization is at stake—the whole future of religion and our church is involved. In the Hearing Reports 28 well known Methodist ministers are adversely mentioned, including five bishops. Velde is a Methodist, so is Brownell with his added subversive list, his increased jailings, trials and deportations, his picking selected items from F.B.I. files and holding the rest secret.

The first tactic is to keep the issue alive. The enemy uses silence as well as publicity. No hearings for awhile. Jack not indicted. A quiet conference with the National Council of Churches, the Catholic Welfare Conference, the American-Jewish Committee to get advice about methods.

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President Eisenhower Speaks to the U. N.

(On December 8, President Eisenhower addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations, on mankind's urgent need for peace in the Atomic Age. In view of the importance of that topic and that address, we include below, significant excerpts.)

On July 16, 1945, the United States set off the world's first atomic test explosion.

Since that day in 1945, the United States of America has conducted 42 test explosions.

Atomic bombs today are more than 25 times as powerful as the weapons with which the atomic age dawned, while hydrogen weapons are in the ranges of millions of tons of TNT equivalent.

PRESENT U. S. STOCKPILE

Today, the United States' stockpile of atomic weapons, which, of course, increases daily, exceeds by many times the explosive equivalent of the total of all bombs and all shells that came from every plane and every gun in every theater of war through all the years of World War II.

A single air group, whether afloat or land-based, can now deliver on an available target a destructive cargo exceeding the power of all the bombs that fell on Britain in all of World War II.

In size and variety, the development of atomic weapons has been no less remarkable. This development has been such that atomic weapons have virtually achieved conventional status within our armed services.

But the dread secret and the fearful engines of atomic might are not ours alone.

The Soviet Union has informed us that, over recent years, it has devoted extensive resources to atomic weapons. During this period the Soviet Union has exploded a series of atomic devices, including at least one involving thermo-nuclear reactions.

If at one time the United States possessed what might have been called a monopoly of atomic power, that monopoly ceased to exist some years ago.

But let no one think that the expenditure of vast sums for weapons and systems of defense can guarantee absolute safety for the cities and citizens of any nation. The awful arithmetic of the atomic bomb does not permit of such an easy solution.

To stop there would be to accept helplessly the probability of civilization destroyed—the annihilation of the irreplaceable heritage of mankind handed down to us from generation to generation—and the condemnation of mankind to begin all over again the age-old struggle upward from savagery toward decency, justice, and right.

Surely no sane member of the human race could discover victory in such desolation. Could anyone wish his name to be coupled by history with such human degradation and destruction?

Occasional pages of history do record the faces of the "great destroyers" but the whole book of history reveals mankind's never-ending quest for peace and mankind's God-given capacity to build.

It is with the book of history, and not with isolated pages, that the United States will ever wish to be identified. My country wants to be constructive, not destructive. It wants agreements, not wars, among nations. It wants itself to live in freedom and in the confidence that the people of every other nation enjoy equally the right of choosing their own way of life.

WE MUST BE PATIENT

So my country's purpose is to help us move out of this dark chamber of horrors into the light, to find a way by which the minds of men, the hopes of men, the souls of men everywhere, can move forward toward peace and happiness and well being.

In this quest, I know that we must not lack patience.

I know that many steps will have to be taken over many months before a new climate of mutually peaceful confidence is broad in the world.

But I know, above all else, that we must start to take these steps—now.

Let no one say that we shun the conference table. Most recently, we have received from the Soviet Union what is in effect an expression of willingness to hold a four-power meeting.

As you already know from our joint Bermuda communique,

the United States, Great Britain and France have agreed promptly to meet with the Soviet Union.

The government of the United States approaches this conference with hopeful sincerity. We will bend every effort of our minds to the single purpose of emerging from that conference with tangible results toward peace—the only sure way of lessening international tension.

We never have, and never will, propose or suggest that the Soviet Union surrender what is rightfully hers.

We will never say that the peoples of Russia are an enemy with whom we have no desire ever to deal or mingle in friendly and fruitful relationship.

On the contrary, we hope that this conference may initiate a relationship with the Soviet Union which will eventually bring about a free intermingling of the peoples of the East and the West—the one sure, human way of developing the understanding required for confident and peaceful relations.

Beyond the turmoil and strife and mystery of Asia, we seek the peaceful opportunity for these peoples to develop their natural resources and to elevate their lot.

The gravity of the time is such that every new avenue of peace, no matter how dimly discernible, should be explored.

There is at least one new avenue of peace which has not yet been explored—an avenue now laid out by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

DISARMAMENT RESOLUTION

In its resolution of November 18, 1953, this General Assembly suggested—and I quote—"That the Disarmament Commission study the desirability of establishing a subcommittee consisting of representatives of the powers principally involved, which should seek, in private, an acceptable solution—and report on such a solution to the General Assembly and to the Security Council not later than September, 1954."

The United States, heeding the suggestion of the General Assembly of the United Nations, is instantly prepared to meet privately with such other countries as may be "principally involved," to seek "an acceptable solution" to the atomic armaments race which overshadows not only the peace, but the very life, of the world.

We shall carry into these private or diplomatic talks a new conception.

The United States would seek more than the mere reduction or elimination of atomic materials available for military purposes.

It is not enough just to take this weapon out of the hands of the soldiers. It must be put into the hands of those who will know how to strip its military casing and adapt it to the arts of peace.

The United States knows that if the fearful trend of atomic military buildup can be reversed, this greatest of destructive forces can be developed into a great boon, for the benefit of all mankind.

The United States knows that peaceful power from atomic energy is no dream of the future. That capability, already proved, is here—now—today. Who can doubt, if the entire body of the world's scientists and engineers had adequate amounts of fissionable material with which to test and develop their ideas, that this capability would rapidly be transformed into universal, efficient, and economic usage.

INTERNATIONAL 'BANK'

To hasten the day when fear of the atom will begin to disappear from the minds of the people and the governments of the East and West, there are certain steps that can be taken now.

I therefore make the following proposal:

The governments principally involved, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, to begin now and continue to make joint contributions from their stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an international atomic energy agency.

The ratios of contributions, the procedures and other details would properly be within the scope of the "private conversations" I have referred to earlier.

The United States is prepared to undertake these explorations in good faith.

Undoubtedly initial and early contributions to this plan would

be small in quantity. However, the proposal has the great virtue that it can be undertaken without irritations and mutual suspicions incident to any attempt to set up a completely acceptable system of world-wide inspection and control.

The more important responsibility of this atomic energy agency would be to devise methods whereby this fissionable material would be allocated to serve the peaceful pursuits of mankind.

Experts would be mobilized to apply atomic energy to the needs of agriculture, medicine, and other peaceful activities. A special purpose would be to provide abundant electrical energy in the power-starved areas of the world. Thus the contributing powers would be dedicating some of their strength to serve the needs rather than the fears of the world.

I would be prepared to submit to the U. S. Congress, and with every expectation of approval, any such plan that would:

FIRST—Encourage worldwide investigation into the most effective peacetime uses of fissionable material—and in the certainty that they had all materials needed for the conduct of all experiments that were appropriate.

SECOND—Begin to diminish the potential destructive power of the world's atomic stockpiles.

THIRD—Allow all peoples of all nations to see that, in this enlightened age, the great powers of the earth, both of the East and of the West, are interested in human aspirations first and foremost rather than in building up the armaments of war.

FOURTH—Open up a new channel for peaceful discussion and initiate at least a new approach to the many difficult problems that must be solved in both private and public conference if the world is to shake off the inertia imposed by fear and make positive progress toward peace.

DESIRE, HOPE FOR PEACE

Against the dark background of the atomic bomb, the United States does not wish merely to present strength, but also the desire and hope for peace.

The coming months will be fraught with fateful decisions. In this Assembly; in the capitals and military headquarters of the world; in the hearts of men everywhere, be they governors or governed, may they be the decisions which will lead this world out of fear and into peace.

To the making of these fateful decisions, the United States pledges before you—and therefore before the world—its determination to help solve the fearful atomic dilemma—to devote its entire heart and mind to find the way by which the miraculous inventiveness of man shall not be dedicated to his death, but consecrated to his life.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

(Continued from Page 34)

There is in preparation a digest of the 270-page hearings with rebuttal to be sent out serially in four or five chapters of four pages, at lowest possible price. Let headquarters know how many you and your church can use. A nationwide religious freedom committee is in formation to carry the fight to Congress and other branches of the Administration and continuously educate the public. Let the office know if you are interested.

H.F.W.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS BULLETIN

\$2.00 per year.

25c per copy.

Issued monthly, October through May, and one summer issue.

METHODIST FEDERATION for SOCIAL ACTION
(Unofficial)

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Editorial Office and Office of Publication
P. O. Box 327, Gresham, Oregon.

Re-entered as second class matter Sept. 15, 1953, at the Postoffice at Gresham, Oregon, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROL

"And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath looked upon the low estate of His handmaiden: For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart. He hath put down princes from their thrones, and hath exalted them of low degree. The hungry He hath filled with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away." (From the Magnificat or Mary's Song anticipating Jesus' birth. Luke 1:46-55.)

"Most of us still fail to realize the Christian religion is a terrific, lovely, explosive, world-shattering force. The 'Magnificat' is as much more revolutionary as it is more beautiful than 'The Red Flag'." (R.H.L. Sheppard, Late Vicar, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London.)

"In the beginning and for a longer time than the United States itself has existed, Christianity itself was the most disreputable of causes. . . . It is time we see this doctrine of guilt by association for what it is: not a device for detecting subversion, but a device for subverting our democratic principles and practices, for destroying our constitutional guarantees, for corrupting our faith in ourselves and in our fellowmen." (Henry Commager, N. Y. Times Magazine, November 8, 1953.)

"The word has circulated that you don't have to go hungry and sick all your life, that it is possible to be free and to run your own affairs. Yes, the revolution of 1776 rides again. People of the so-called backward countries are reaching and struggling upward for that human dignity which comes with abundance and self-reliance and freedom." (Murray Lincoln, President of the Cooperative League of the United States.)

THE WHITE CASE: SOME FUNDAMENTALS

"For the first time in our history, a political party, smarting from stunning defeats in off-year elections, permitted a politician in the high office of Attorney General to charge a former President with harboring and promoting a Soviet spy knowingly and deliberately. If such a charge could have been substantiated, it could only mean that Mr. Truman had acted as a traitor. Before the House Un-American Activities Committee, White denied he was a communist. The federal grand jury, which indicted America's ten top communists, refused to indict White because of insufficient evidence.

"Before the Jenner Committee, which is the Senate Sub-Committee of Subversive Activities, Attorney General Brownell and G-Man Hoover laid down a novel doctrine of guilt and innocence which, if perpetuated, means the destruction of our entire Bill of Rights. In answer to questions weighted against Mr. Truman and the late Mr. White, Hoover said that evidence insufficient to indict and to convict was sufficient to take White or any one else off the job, blast their reputations, shame their families, label them traitors, all without right of counsel, trial by jury, the right to confront their accusers, the right to produce witnesses, the right to cross-examine and everything else that constitutes due process of law, which, in our land, insists that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty.

"White died just after his reputation had been blasted before the House committee, and we shall never know whether he was innocent or guilty of the grave inuendoes (not even charges) made against him.

"What ominous lesson do we learn from Mr. Truman's treatment . . . ? Certainly if this can be done against a former President, who himself was the architect of our anti-Communist policy, whether against the Soviet Union in Europe or the North Korean and Chinese Communists in Asia, then the lowly citizen must sit in fear and trembling as to what may await him. . . . Such a political climate may very well destroy every one of our liberties and they may never be restored. When fear, hysteria, hate combine with fascist or any other totalitarian drives successfully, then we will have to say good-bye to all we have held dear in our way of life till now."—From "Advance," Amalgamated Clothing Workers publication, December 1, 1953.